

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1.. (NEWLY AMENDED) A tie bracket for connecting opposing insulating panels of insulating concrete forms, comprising a first elongate plate, a second elongate plate spaced apart from said first elongate plate, said first and second elongate plates having a height, and a web securing said first plate and said second plate in spaced apart relation, wherein said web forms a plurality of circumferentially closed, rounded openings arranged in at least two horizontal rows when said plates are oriented vertically, wherein each horizontal row includes at least two adjacent said openings;

said web further including an additional horizontal row of circumferentially closed, rounded openings, whose centerlines are arranged in a line and located to bisect the height of said first and second elongate plates, the openings of said additional horizontal row being elongated in a horizontal direction and having only a nominal height to accommodate and guide a saw blade, and

said web includes a plurality of vertically spaced apart spanning members extending from said first plate to said second plate, including an uppermost spanning member and a lowermost spanning member, and

said plates extend above and below both said uppermost and lowermost spanning member, and

wherein each said spanning member comprises intersecting straps selectively orthogonally oriented relative to said spanning members thereby maximizing strength thereof.

Claim 2. (CANCELED)

Claim 3. (CANCELED)

Claim 4. (CANCELED)

Claim 5. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The tie bracket according to claim 1, wherein said web includes at least one brace connecting at least two of said spanning members, wherein said brace comprises intersecting straps selectively orthogonally oriented relative to said brace.

Claim 6. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The tie bracket according to claim 5, further comprising an upwardly open receptacle, the interior of said receptacle having a height greater than its width.

Claim 7. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The tie bracket according to claim 1, wherein said additional horizontal row of circumferentially closed, rounded openings includes at least three elongated openings including a first outer opening, a second outer opening, and a central opening located between said first outer opening and said second outer opening, said first outer opening and said second outer opening each has height greater than that of said central opening.

Claim 8. (CANCELED)

Claim 9. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The tie bracket according to claim 1, further comprising at least one circumferentially closed opening located entirely above said uppermost spanning member.

Claim 10. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The tie bracket according to claim 1, wherein said lowermost spanning member has at least one circumferentially closed, rounded opening formed therein.

Claim 11. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A tie bracket for connecting opposing insulating concrete forms, comprising a first elongate plate, a second elongate plate spaced apart from said first elongate plate, and a web securing said first plate and said second plate in spaced apart relation, wherein

said web forms a plurality of circumferentially closed openings arranged in at least two horizontal rows when said plates are oriented vertically, wherein each said horizontal row includes at least two adjacent said openings, wherein one said horizontal row of openings includes at least two openings oriented such that the length of each one of said two openings extends horizontally, one said horizontal row of openings includes at least three openings including a first outer opening, a second outer opening, and a central opening located between said first outer opening and said second outer opening, wherein said first outer opening and said second outer opening each has height greater than that of said central opening, and said first outer opening and said second outer opening each are bounded by a said strap oriented with its width parallel to at least one of said first plate and said second plate, wherein said first outer opening, said second outer opening and said central opening are oriented such that each one of their respective lengths extends horizontally, and wherein

said web includes

a plurality of vertically spaced apart spanning members extending from said first

plate to said second plate, including an uppermost spanning member and a lowermost spanning member, wherein each said spanning member comprises intersecting straps selectively orthogonally oriented relative to one another, said web includes at least one brace connecting at least two of said spanning members, wherein said brace comprises intersecting straps selectively orthogonally oriented relative to one another,

an upwardly open receptacle having width and a height greater than the width,
at least one circumferentially closed opening located above said uppermost spanning member, and

at least one circumferentially closed opening formed therein.

Claim 12. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A form having a first insulating panel formed from expanded foam, a second opposed insulating panel formed from expanded foam, and a tie bracket spanning and connecting said first insulating panel and said second insulating panel, wherein said tie bracket includes a web having a first end embedded within said first insulating panel and a second end embedded within said second insulating panel, said first and second insulating panels having a height, and

wherein said web forms a plurality of circumferentially closed, rounded openings arranged in at least two horizontal rows when said plates are oriented vertically, wherein each said horizontal row includes at least two adjacent said openings; and

wherein said first insulating panel and said second insulating panel each have an upper surface, a plurality of projections formed in said upper surface, a lower surface, and a plurality of notches formed in said lower surface, wherein each said notch is dimensioned and configured to

receive said projection therein in close cooperation therewith, and each said notch is directly below one said projection; and

wherein all said notches of one said insulating panel are regularly spaced apart from adjacent said notches of said insulating panel by equal distance intervals,

said notches include a first end notch adjacent to only one other said notch and a second end notch adjacent to only one other said notch,

said insulating panel has a first end and a second end, and

said first end notch is spaced apart from said first end by a distance interval of half the magnitude of the magnitude of said distance intervals between adjacent said notches.

Claim 13. (ORIGINAL) The form according to claim 12, wherein one said horizontal row of openings includes at least two openings oriented such that the length of each one of said two openings extends horizontally.

Claim 14. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The form according to claim 12, wherein one said horizontal row of openings includes at least three openings including a first outer opening, a second outer opening, and a central opening located between said first outer opening and said second outer opening, wherein said first outer opening, said second outer opening, and said central opening are oriented such that each one of their respective lengths extends horizontally.

Claim 15. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The form according to claim 12, wherein said web includes a first plate located at said first end, a second plate located at said second end, a

plurality of vertically spaced apart spanning members extending from said first plate to said second plate, including an uppermost spanning member and a lowermost spanning member, wherein each said spanning member comprises intersecting straps selectively orthogonally oriented relative to said spanning members for maximizing strength thereof, said plates extending above and below both said uppermost spanning member and said lowermost spanning member, thereby extending the full height of said first and second insulating panels.

Claim 16. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The form according to claim 15, wherein said web includes at least one brace connecting at least two of said spanning members, wherein said brace comprising intersecting straps selectively orthogonally oriented relative to said brace.

Claim 17. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The form according to claim 15, wherein the uppermost spanning member of said web further comprises an upwardly open receptacle having a width and a height is greater than the width.

Claim 18. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The form according to claim 15, wherein each said panel and said second insulating panel.

Claim 19. (CANCELED)

Claim 20. (CANCELED)

Claim 21. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A tie bracket for connecting opposing insulating panels of insulating concrete forms, comprising a first elongate plate, a second elongate plate spaced apart from said first elongate plate, and a web securing said first plate and said second plate in spaced apart relation, wherein said web forms a plurality of circumferentially closed, rounded openings arranged in at least two horizontal rows when said plates are oriented vertically, wherein each horizontal row includes at least two adjacent said openings; one said horizontal row of openings including at least three elongated openings including a first outer opening, a second outer opening, and a central opening located between said first outer opening and said second outer opening, wherein said first outer opening, said second outer opening, and said central opening are oriented such that each one of their respective lengths extends horizontally; and

said web includes a plurality of vertically spaced apart spanning members extending from said first plate to said second plate, including an uppermost spanning member and a lowermost spanning member, and

said plates extend above and below both said uppermost and lowermost spanning member, and

wherein each said spanning member comprises intersecting straps selectively orthogonally oriented relative to said spanning members thereby maximizing strength thereof,

wherein said first elongate plate and said second elongate plate each have an orthogonal ridge extending substantially along the full length of an interior face thereof, with a break in each ridge located along the portion of each elongate plate that coincides with a respective one of the first outer opening and the second outer opening.

Claim 22. (NEWLY AMENDED) A tie bracket for connecting opposing insulating panels of insulating concrete forms, said tie bracket comprising:

a first elongate plate, a second elongate plate spaced apart from said first elongate plate, said first and second elongate plates having a height, and a web securing said first plate and said second plate in spaced apart relation,

said web forming a plurality of circumferentially closed openings arranged in at least two horizontal rows when said plates are oriented vertically, each horizontal row including at least two adjacent said openings;

said web further including an additional horizontal row of circumferentially closed, rounded openings, whose centerlines are arranged in a line and located to bisect the height of said first and second elongate plates, the openings of said additional horizontal row being elongated in a horizontal direction and having only a nominal height to accommodate and guide a saw blade,

said web including a plurality of vertically spaced apart spanning members extending from said first plate to said second plate, including an uppermost spanning member and a lowermost spanning member;

said plates each extending above said uppermost spanning member and below said lowermost spanning member, and

wherein each said spanning member comprises a plurality of orthogonal ridges extending along substantially the full length of the spanning member, thereby maximizing the strength thereof.